



St Brigid's Primary School

Website: www.stbrigidsmayogall.ik.org

St Brigid's Bulletin

News Letter

April / June 2018

Term 3 Takes Off:

On Monday 9th April we started Term 3 refreshed after our rather cold Easter break.

Credit Union Quiz:

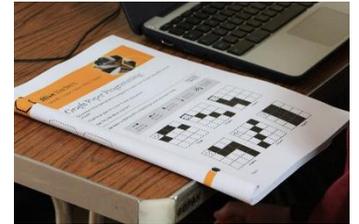
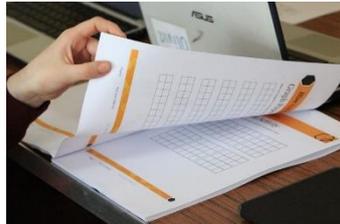


On Sunday 8th April our quiz team travelled to Dublin to take part in the All-Ireland Quiz final in the RDS. Our team: Lorcan, Cathal, Rory and Iona battled hard in a very tough quiz. Well done to all the team and thanks to Master Kelly for all his hard work in preparation.



ICT Coding ~ Hive Hackers:

On Wednesday 11th, Thursday 12th and Friday 13th April our Primary 6 pupils travelled to St John's Primary School Swatragh to participate in training in coding skills. Following an inservice training session for teachers, our pupils were trained in coding "Angry Birds" through mazes. This project was funded by PWC. We are grateful to Mrs Kearney and St John's P.S. for their invitation and hospitality.



Tree Planting at Ballymacombs:

On the afternoon of Wednesday 11th April P7 spent the afternoon planting trees at the former Ballymacombs landfill facility. More than 13,000 native broadleaf trees including birch, alder, rowan, hazel and crab apple planted over a three day period are set to transform the old landfill site into the Ballymacombs Community Woodland. The site is located next to Toners' Bog, an area which inspired the work of Seamus Heaney. Not only will the trees provide valuable wildlife habitats, they will also enhance the surrounding landscape and provide a place for people to visit and enjoy for many generations to come! An afternoon well spent.



Peer Mediation:

Primary 6 and Primary 7 pupils took part in Peer Mediation training led by Mrs McCrum. This training brought all the P6s and P7s together to develop their communication skills. Here they took part in lots of activities in which they had 'to be active listeners' and be aware of how actions and words have powerful consequences. Pupils particularly enjoyed the role-play between Mrs O'Kane and Mrs McCrum. After completion of this 6 week programme P6 and P7 pupils can now help solve minor conflicts between the younger pupils. They can listen to both sides of the argument and suggest solutions that appeal to the children. The younger children also love having the Peer Mediators in their playgrounds as they see them as their buddies.



Maria Scullion:



On the 5th – 7th May Maria Scullion and her family travelled to Birmingham where Maria competed in the L.P.I. games. She participated in activities such as curling, shot putt and running races. Maria received three Bronze medals and was delighted to meet Ellie Simmons who was one of the coaches. Ellie gave Maria lots of useful tips and helpful advice. Maria is looking forward to practising and getting ready to compete again next year.

P6 Swimming:

In Term 3 P6 pupils had the opportunity to have swimming lessons at Greenvale Leisure Centre. Lessons commenced on the Tuesday 17th May and continued to Tuesday 12th June. These have proven very successful with children who were non-swimmers mastering the basics. Well done everyone.

EcoSpeak Environmental Public Speaking Competition:



On Tuesday 17th April St Brigid's Primary School took part in the EcoSpeak Environmental Public Speaking Competition in the Burnavon Theatre, represented by Cassie O'Connor. Well done Cassie – you are a real star!

Sean Marty Lockhart:



On 27th April Mr Sean Marty Lockhart of St Patrick's College started a six week PE programme with the P7 pupils. The PE lessons consist of games, skills and team building and great fun was had by all. As a direct feeder school of St. Patrick's College we benefit from both Science and PE lessons for KS2 pupils.



After School Clubs:

On Monday 23rd April we started our 3rd term of After School Clubs to run for 6 weeks finishing on Friday 8th June.



Term 3

Day	Club	Tutor	Age Groups
Monday	Hurling Girls' Gaelic Gardening	Mr R. Doherty Mrs G. O'Hara Mrs U. Quinn & Miss A. Doherty	P6 – P7 P6 – P7 P3 – P5
Tuesday	Camogie Dance	Mrs J. O'Kane Miss N. Convery	P6 – P7 P3 – P5
Wednesday	Boys' Gaelic School Council Choir	Mr S. Downey Mrs P. McCrum Mr S. Scullion	P4 – P5 P4 – P7 P4 – P7
Thursday	Boys' Gaelic Cartoon Drawing	Mr R. Doherty Mr E. Mulholland	P6 – P7 P3 – P5
Friday	Cycling Proficiency	Mrs G. O'Hara	P7 only

Civic Reception:



We were very honoured when Councillor Sean McPeake nominated St Brigid's PS for a Civic Award from Mid-Ulster District Council, because of our success in Road Safety during 2017/18. We won the NI Road Safety Quiz and the NI Road Safety Primary School Award. Therefore, Mid-Ulster Council invited Primary 7 pupils to a Civic Awards Evening in the Seamus Heaney HomePlace, Bellaghy on Wednesday 2nd May at 7pm. Following an awards ceremony, where Orlaith accepted a beautiful crystal plaque from Councillor Kim Ashton, pupils were treated to supper. We had a wonderful evening thanks to Councillor McPeake.

Colour Run:



On Friday 4th of May all Primary Six pupils travelled to Rainey Endowed School in Magherafelt to take part in their first ever colour run. Along with Knockloughrim, all the Primary Six pupils, along with Mr. Mulholland and Mr. Montgomery ran the 4K course around the school's sport's grounds. During the run, staff members and past pupils from the Rainey threw coloured powder and by the end of the race everyone was covered in from head to toe! Along with the race, there was also an opportunity for the pupils to purchase food, and even dance along to some music provided by Cool FM. Everyone had a great day and many of the pupils have labelled it as their favourite memory of Primary Six.



Entrepreneur John McDowall:



Mr John McDowall visited our Primary 7 pupils as part of their Junior Entrepreneur Programme. He spoke to the children about starting and running a business and he gave our pupils some terrific insights into becoming young entrepreneurs. He spoke of the importance of a good education, having an idea and running with it and to not be afraid.



Mid-Term Break:

Both staff and pupils had a very enjoyable mid-term break from 7th – 11th May.

Testing Week:

Testing Week began on the 15th May – both paper and digital. You will receive the results in your child's school report. This year our testing has been made easier due to the fact that we can use our JDO supplied Chromebooks. Well done everyone.

Woodwind Assembly:

On Wednesday 16th May music tutor Lauren Skelton and her students performed for all pupils at Assembly – well done to Maeve Birt, Neala Currie, James McPeake, Maria Conway, Lucie McMullan and Isabelle Regan.



New Interactive White Board:



A family who wish to remain anonymous donated a new Active Panel to our Primary 3 classroom. At a cost of £4,818.00 this new gadget will support teaching and learning. We are indebted to this family for their generosity. Primary 3 teacher Mrs Donaghy and her pupils are absolutely delighted.



ERASMUS +



From 18th to 22nd May Mrs O’Kane and Mrs O’Hara went on a visit to schools in Croatia as part of the Erasmus+ project. They visited Osnovna Skola in Glina where they were made so welcome. The school has so many pupils that it runs a dual day, with pupils having lessons early in the morning until mid-day OR in the afternoon. Croatia is a beautiful country where we visited Plitvice Lakes National Park. The Croatians are very envious of our school facilities and the fabulous lifestyles we enjoy in Ireland.



E.T.I.:
On Friday 25th May District Inspector Mrs Mary Lowery visited St. Brigid’s to gain further information and evidence of our Shared Education work. This will be written up as a Case Study in a publication by the E.T.I.

Teddy Bear’s Picnic:



Primary 1 went on a Teddy Bears Picnic. They had lots of fun making bear paws and were so excited that our special teddies from home were able to join us. After the picnic, they all worked together to build a huge bear cave for their teddies to have a rest. What a busy day they all had!

Lavey Parish:

On the weekend of 26th and 27th May Lavey Parish Masses were held in St Brigid’s P.S. due to the Mid-Ulster Truck Show. Our school choir sang at the Vigil Mass. The school was again used for Mass on 23rd and 24th June. We are delighted to be able to support our local parish.

Mid-Ulster Truck Show:



There was great excitement on the weekend of the Mid-Ulster Truck Show when one of our pupils Rachael Duggan won the colouring competition – her prize a huge £1,000 for ICT equipment for school. **Thank you Rachael and well done!**



All Primary 6 pupils who entered received a Goody Bag.

SPORTS DAY!

We had an action-packed Sports Day on Bank Holiday Monday 28th May with both traditional sports competitions and fundamental sports. The final results were top-secret but were revealed on Prize Day!

KS1 Winners France and KS2 Winners Sweden.



Merit Assembly:

Our April/May Merit Assembly was held on and the winners were:-

- P1 ~ Saidhbhin McMullan, Ava Scullion, Ryan Hughes, Shea Anderson, Rosie Birt
- P1/2 ~ James Larkham, Aimee Glackin, Joseph Hearty, Jessica Hutchinson
- P2/3 ~ Liam Devlin, Megan-Rose Keenan, Conor Smith, Aoibheann McTaggart
- P3 ~ Roisin Magee, James Canavan, Molly McSwiggan, Liam McErlean, Callum Casey, Oonagh Kelly
- P4 ~ Karen Birt, Rose McCormick, Johnny McKenna, Kelan McCorry
- P4/5 ~ Aoife Brennan, Donnacha Collins, Ronan Duggan, Katie McGarry
- P5 ~ Daniel Shaw, Aideen Currie, Eadaoin Doherty, Keelan Duggan, Eimear O'Neill
- P6 ~ Aine Devlin, Michael McKenna, Odhran McNeill, Luka Samardzija, Eoghan Brennan
- P6/7 ~ Thomas Canavan, Fionn McPeake, Dara O'Kane, Luke O'Doherty, Grace Convery, Meabh McDonnell, Emily O'Connor, Cassie O'Connor
- P7 ~ Neala Currie, Rory Doherty, Katie O'Kane, Clodagh McGarry, James Sargent



Accelerated Reading Awards:

- P4/5 ~ Carina Casey, Conor Sargent
- P5 ~ Ciara Dillon, Erin O'Boyle, Eva Bradley, Henry Curley, Sadie Kilpatrick, Leona Martin, Sinead McErlean
- P6 ~ Rian Collins, Ruaidri Melaugh
- P6/7 ~ Cassie O'Connor, Emily O'Connor, Thomas Canavan, Fionn McPeake
- P7 ~ Lorcan McDonnell, Neala Currie, Ciara Cooke



Book Fair:

For the first time ever we held a Book Fair in term 3 from Wednesday 20th May to Wednesday 6th June. This was from the Book People company. Sales totalled £832 which raised £208 in commission. This will be spent on Accelerated Reading Books.

Work Experience Students:



Miss Emma McErlean and Miss Kerrie McNicholl began teaching in St. Brigid's in late May. They are supporting the class teachers at this very busy time of year and gaining valuable teaching experience.

Past pupil Amy Scullion volunteered in school during May and June and proved to be an invaluable asset. We wish her every success in her future career as a teacher.



Conall Lee started work placement on Friday 10th November and will be here every Friday until the end of June. He is a student at St. Mary's University College Belfast and hopes to pursue a career in teaching.

Past pupil Emma Harkin joined us from St Mary's College Clady for a week of work experience. Emma hopes to pursue a career working with children.



P1 Induction:

On Tuesday 5th, 12th and 19th June 36 new P1s attended school as part of our familiarisation programme. We have found that this really helps pupils to settle in to school life and takes away any fears about "big school".



P1 Induction Night:

On Monday 11th June we had our P1 Induction Night unfortunately only 23/35 parents attended. Mrs O'Kane, Mrs McCrum and Mrs Mitchell spoke to parents about what to expect from life in St Brigid's. However, the stars of the evening were the 8 P7 pupils who told parents about what school was 'really like'. We expect to have 36 pupils in Primary 1 in September.

First Holy Communion:

Due to the renovations of St Mary's Church First Communion was held in St Oliver Plunkett's Church Greenlough. In order to rehearse for First Communion we had to book buses to transport our children to Clady on 30th May, 6th and 8th June. Buses cost £165 per day but we enjoyed the excellent hospitality of Patrick and Paddy the two parish secretaries. Fr Graham joined our rehearsals and told the children "not to worry". Our choir also attended the rehearsal days but in order not to miss out on the curriculum, they were taught in the Prayer room by Mrs O'Hara. Well done everyone.

41 P4 pupils made their First Holy Communion on Saturday 9th June. Again every pupil was involved in the ceremony, reading, singing and offertory procession. A lovely ceremony from Fr. Graham and nice weather added up to a great day for all. The pupils were very well prepared by Mrs Quinn, Miss Doherty and their classroom assistants Jemma, Cathy and Susie. The school choir led by Sean Scullion and accompanied by John Hanson on drums, Oonagh Clark and Emily Kelly were again amazing and added so much to the ceremony.



Strings Assembly:



On Monday 18th June Helena Nicholl also showcased the Talents of her violin pupils with a special assembly for the whole school well done to Elaine O'Neill, Carina Casey, Aideen Currie and Aine Young.



Leavers' Mass and Prizegiving:

Our Leavers' Mass was held on Thursday 21st June in St Brigid's Primary School at 10:00am. P7 pupils made their promise/commitment to abstain from alcohol and illegal drugs. Following Mass we had our Annual Award ceremony.



Pupil of the Year
Orlaith Scullion



Girls' Footballer
Cassie O'Connor
Sports Person
James Sargent



Courtesy & Consideration
Maeve Birt



Hurlers
Connor & Tiarnan Melaugh
Boys' Footballer
Patrick Birt



Sporting Legend
Marc McGurk



Athlete of the Year
Emily O'Connor
Camogie
Ellen Hassan



Quiz Person ~ Lorcan McDonnell
School Counsellor ~ Ciara Cooke
ICT Award ~ Iona McDowall
Drama & Singing ~ Finbar Fleming



Mrs Caitriona Sargent was presented with flowers as a token of appreciation for buying resources and “ice-lollies” for our sports teams. Thank you.



Work Experience Students:



Past pupils Caoimhe, Madison, Hannah, Aoife and Caoimhe had their work experience in St. Brigid’s during the week commencing Monday 25th June. We try to give everyone on work experience the true flavour of life in schools, with lesson observation in all key stages, playground and canteen supervision – even directed time until 4pm!

Shared Education

P1 Shared Education Trip:



Primary 1 travelled to Knockloughrim Primary School on the morning of Thursday 3rd May. We joined our friends in Mrs Clarke’s class to learn all about Growth and Growing. Despite the very wet weather, we all wrapped up warm and participated in lots of fun activities, both indoors and outdoors. We planted sunflower seeds and learned how to care for them. We also made shelters in the forest and went on a scavenger hunt, searching for signs of growth. It was a great day had by all and we are looking forward to our shared trip to Garvagh Forest together in June.



P4 and P5 Shared Education Trip:

Primary 4 and Primary 5 joined their Shared Education partners from Knockloughrim P. S. on Monday 4th June to watch Danny Carmo's Mathematic Mystery show in the Burnavon in Cookstown. All the pupils were amazed by his magic tricks and enjoyed the audience participation. Danny even gave everyone a book of tricks to practise with at home. Afterwards we enjoyed a picnic lunch in Drum Manor Forest Park and got to feed the ducks. We finished our afternoon with an exhausting visit on climbing frames in the adventure park.



P1 and P2 Shared Education Trip:

On Monday 18th June, Primary 1 went to Garvagh Forest with their friends from Knockloughrim Primary School. The ladies from the forestry service had lots of fun activities for them to do, including going on a bug hunt, building dens and creating mud masks on the trunks of the trees. They all had a very busy morning and enjoyed working together.



SPORTS EVENTS

Cross Country at St Patrick's College:

The final cross country race of the school year took place on Thursday 10th of April at St. Patrick's College in Maghera. Six boys and six girls from the school took part in the race and they ran incredibly well, despite the cold and windy conditions. Huge congratulations to both the boys and girl's teams, who finished in 1st place! What a great way to finish up the cross country for the year.





INTO Ulster Boys' Hurling Finals:



St Brigid's Primary School represented Derry in the INTO Ulster hurling competition in Meadowbank on Wednesday 25th April. County winners from across Ulster came to compete, the boys faced the Fermanagh and Down champions in their group. They topped their group and faced Carrickmore in the semi-final. The boys played great hurling and were on top in the game. However, they could not get past the Carrickmore keeper who had an outstanding game, denying James Sargent and Rian Collins on numerous occasions. Carrickmore progressed and went on to win the tournament. Well done to the St Brigid's boys and they now prepare for the Derry championships.

All County Hurling Championships:

Congratulations to both teams that represented the school at Owenbeg in the Hurling Championship on Tuesday 15th May. The A team picked up the silverware in their section and the B team were narrowly defeated in their final by one score. Well done to the boys who showed great skill.

South Derry Track and Field:

Boys and girls from P7 attended the Track and Field day in Meadowbank on Thursday 17th May which gave them the opportunity to try a range of different athletic events. St Brigid's main winners came on the track with the 100m sprint and 200m run. Well done to Cathal Mulholland, Connor and Tiarnan Melaugh, Emily and Cassie O'Connor for the medals they won. Also well done to Katie O'Kane who received gold in the long jump.

South Derry Boys' Football Championship Day:

Congratulations to the boys' Gaelic team who won the Derry Division 1 Football Championship in Glen on Tuesday 22nd May. They topped their group and had a very tough semi-final against Glen and faced a strong Anahorish team in the final but they played hard and were rewarded for their efforts.

All County Camogie Championships:

Well done to all the girls who competed in the Camogie Championship in Owenbeg on Thursday 24th May. The A team faced a tough challenge in their group and it wasn't to be their day. The B team made it all the way to the final but were unfortunately beaten in the final by one goal.

Friendly at Dunloy:

St Brigid's and St Joseph's Dunloy faced each other in a friendly match on Wednesday 23rd May in preparation for both their hurling championships. The boys travelled to Dunloy to play a very competitive game against the hosts, as top class hurling was displayed from both sides. Thanks to Mr Shivers from Dunloy for the organisation of the game and we hope to continue competitive games between both schools.

Playing at half time:

James Sargent and Marc McGurk represented the school when playing for Derry at half time of the championship match between Derry and Donegal on the 27th May. The boys earned their position on the team

by impressing at a skills test earlier in the year held in Meadowbank. We hope that there will be more days in the Derry jersey for these boys and others from St Brigid's in the future.



All County Football Festival:

On Wednesday 30th May the boys' and girls' Gaelic teams headed to the football festival in Owenbeg. They enjoyed having fun games against other school from across the county in the sunshine.

South Derry Girls' Football Championship:

The P6 and P7 girls competed in the South Derry football Championship in Glen on Thursday 31st May. They enjoyed taking part in the Sharon Donnelly memorial. Well done to all the girls who had a great day of football.

P4 and P5 Football at Annahorish:

P4 and P5 enjoyed a trip over to Newbridge to play Annahorish in a friendly game organised by Seamus Downey. The boys showed great skill in their games with some fantastic scores taken. A big thanks to Mr Quinn from Annahorish for his hospitality.

Football Tournament:

St Canice's P. S. Dungiven were the hosts for their annual Gaelic tournament on Friday 1st June. Teams from North and South Derry came to compete. The boys A team ran out as eventual winners in their section facing a spirited Faughanvale side in the final. Congratulations to both teams from St Brigid's as they celebrated together and well done to James Sargent who won player of the tournament.

All County Boys' Football Finals Night:

On Friday night of 8th June the boys' gaelic team went to Owenbeg representing South Derry as Championship winners. Enroute they stopped off at the Oakleaf for their dinner to fuel up for the game. The boys started brilliantly beating Good Shepherd in the semi-final. In the final they faced a spirited Faughenvale side who played very well. Goals in the first and last minute sealed the win for the North Derry side. We can be very proud of our boys' efforts for reaching an all Derry final.



Castle Cup Football:

Massive congratulations to the boys who won the Castle Cup at Glen on Wednesday 13th June. The B team put in some good performances against strong sides in their section but it wasn't to be their day. The A team face many rivals on their route to the final, beating Straw and Bellaghy to top the group. Dernaflaw was next in the quarter final but two goals in the second half saw the boys through. In the semi-final they played

Annahorish which went to extra time and both teams played brilliantly. The boys stole it in the end with a late flurry of scores in the second half of extra time. The final was a hard fought game against the reigning champions Glenullin. The 3rd tough game in a row. Super saves, brilliant block and fantastic finishing saw the boys push on in the 2nd half to lift the cup with the help of a championship winning goal from Ben Donnelly. Well done to everyone involved on the day.

Castle Cup Hurling and Camogie:

An A and B team from St Brigid's went to compete in the Hurling Castle Cup in Glen on Wednesday 20th June organised by St Patrick's College Maghera. Each team played four games in their group and both teams succeeded to their semi-finals. The B team faced a very strong Ballerin side who eventually ran out as comfortable winners in the B section. In the A semi-final the boys played Swatragh who hurled very well but the St Brigids' boys scored a few goals to book their place in the final. In the final the boys played Glen, who they had already beaten in the group stages, however as always in finals this was a close game. Star performances from captain James Sargent leading the line and scoring (2-2) from Lorcan McDonnell saw St Brigid's win by a single point. Well done to the boys on their double Castle Cup victory!

Two teams of girls took part in the Castle Cup Camogie Tournament. The A team had a very exciting tense game winning by one point. A confident win in their next game seen them through to the semi-final but unfortunately it was not to be. Great display of camogie today. The B team also showed a great display of camogie, competing against A teams and still getting some wins was great. Unfortunately, they narrowly lost out in a place in the semi-finals due to score difference. All girls participating should be very proud of their performances.



School Trips

P1 and P2 to Cinema and Play Park:

Primary 1 and 2 went on their end of year trip to Maghera Cinema and Leisure Centre. We all enjoyed the film 'Show Dogs' and then had super fun playing in the park, on the bouncy castle and in the soft play area. What a lovely way to spend the last Monday of the school year. Enjoy your summer holidays boys and girls!



P3 to Alley Cats and Cinema in Coleraine:



On Friday 22nd of June all of the Primary 3 pupils went on their school trip to the Jet Centre. They had great fun in Alleycats and enjoyed watching 'Show Dogs' in the cinema.



P4 and P5 to Jet Centre Coleraine:



Tuesday 12th June Primary 4 and Primary 5 really enjoyed their end of year trip to the Jet Centre. They all watched 'Show Dogs' together before Primary 4 went off to Alley Cats and Primary 5 went off to 10 pin bowling.



P6 to Jet Centre Coleraine:

Primary Six enjoyed their end of year trip on Friday the 15th of June to the Jet Centre in Coleraine. Everyone had lots of fun bowling in the morning before settling into the cinema for lunch and a viewing of the film "Show Dogs." Afterwards all the pupils enjoyed playing on the amusements and arcade games before it was time to head home. It was a great, fulfilled day for everyone!



P7 to Fan the Flame Mass:

On Thursday 7th June P7 attended Fan The Flame Mass in Celtic Park Derry. Mass was celebrated by Bishop McKeown. Pupils then went on to St. Columb's Park for a picnic, fun and games and finished off their trip with a walk over the Peace Bridge.



Staff Training:

In St Brigid's P.S. we give a high priority to the professional development of all our staff. Listed below is a number of training and development events attended by staff:

9 th April	R D, C O'N, E M and G O'H all attended ICT Coding Training 'Hive Hackers' in St John's P.S. Swatragh
18 th April	M O'K to St Lurach's Centre Maghera for PATHS training course
19 th April	M O'K to the Cluster Meeting
26 th & 27 th April	M O'K to Primary Principals' Conference
1 st May	A M to Global Learning
11 th May	P McC to Child Protection Training
15 th May	M O'K to Shared Education Conference {SELF}
14 th June	M O'K to Data Cluster Meeting
19 th June	C D to Keeping Safe Training

Dates for your Diary:

Term begins	Monday 3 rd September 2018
Hallowe'en	29 th October – 2 nd November 2018 inclusive
Christmas	24 th December – 2 nd January 2019 inclusive
Mid-term	18 th – 22 nd February 2019 inclusive
St Patrick's Day	18 th and 19 th March 2019
Easter	18 th – 26 th April 2019 inclusive
Mid-term	6 th May 2019
	27 th and 28 th May 2019
	Term Ends 28 th June 2019

These dates are subject to change.

We wish all our pupils and their families a pleasant summer break and look forward to seeing everyone again on Monday 3rd September.

We will miss our 36 P7 pupils who have made an excellent contribution to life in St. Brigid's over the years.

Goodbye to Rory who moves to St Mary's P. S. Glenview and to Savannah who moves to St. Mary's P. S. Portglenone.

To all our leavers we wish you well and hope that you will always think of St. Brigid's with pride and fondness.

